

Danner, Ward

From: Heather Anderson <heatherla@me.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:42 PM
To: Blumenfeld, Jared
Subject: Please reconsider Malibu United Visit

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Dear Mr. Blumenthal,

It has come to my attention that you are planning a visit to Malibu High School at the request of Malibu United. I strongly urge you to reconsider your decision. Many of us feel that Malibu United is manipulating the process that has been established to rectify the PCB situation at Malibu High and they are making it difficult to take the necessary steps of guaranteeing a safe campus for our children. I would even go so far as to say they are interfering with the proposed building project that would ultimately resolve many of the issues with PCB's and removal of caulk if the project could go forward.

I am past president of the Malibu High PTA, a member of the Bond oversight committee for our District's recently passed school improvement bond, a member of the Santa Monica Community College Bond Oversight Committee and a member of AMPS, Advocates for Malibu Public Schools. I have two children that recently graduated from Malibu High after attending Cabrillo Elementary School which is also part of the EPA investigation. I have spent the past 7 months on the Malibu High Environmental Task Force as we have investigated the state of our campus. One member of that Environmental Task Force, Mrs. Di Nicola recently moved to our city. She is the principal leader of Malibu United and in most ways is spearheading the efforts of their group.

As a 25 year resident of Malibu, I would like to strongly state that Malibu United does not reflect the majority of opinion in our community. Of the 1300 students and approximately 800 families of Malibu High School this group is a small fraction of the parents in our community. All but three families continue to send their students to school in the belief that Malibu High is safe. Naturally, it is not toxin free, as our recent tests have shown. But many of us believe that the members of Malibu United have unrealistic attitudes and scientifically unsound principles regarding the risks involved with the present levels of PCB's at the campus. Their demands are unreasonable and for a school district of our small size, are taxing the viability of providing a sound education for our children.

Malibu United members have often cited their right to know the existence and breakdown of every single potential toxic compound on our campus. They have a zero tolerance standard and have already caused our school district to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on tests that later proved to not satisfy their requirements. They demanded a \$200,000 dollar cleaning of the campus over the holiday breaks and then claimed that it was inadequate. Sadly, the district administration tries to accommodate them but only seems to lose their trust more and more.

Malibu United maintains that thyroid cancer and other thyroid related disease is caused by PCB's but will not provide any scientific substantiation to their claims. Malibu United has insisted on scaring our community about the toxic levels of PCB's on the high school campus when according to all air tests of air were in the safe zone and only three wipe tests of caulk were above the EPA 50ppm threshold. After cleaning these were reduced to safer levels. As you know, the buildings that have been tested are scheduled for demolition and remodeling.

The campus has been a school for nearly 60 years and no pattern of illness or existence of present illness has ever been reported until this year when three teachers reported thyroid issues. However, even after the inquiry began, teachers refused to participate in a Department of Public health Survey, which led many of us to believe that the original claims of illness were not easy to establish.

Many of the parents in Malibu are not worried about the health of our campus. naturally you will not hear from them. Obviously, we all desire fresh air and healthy environment for our children. But I am writing today because I feel strongly that Malibu United is trying to scare our community, drum up donations and intimidate the school district with threats that have no substantiation in scientific fact. I hate to see emotions rule the day in this important situation. But as hard as I've tried Malibu United is trying to make a point that will eventually close the school for their satisfaction in "protecting children."

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